

Wasatch Stake: A New Site

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HEBER CITY — The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has advised Wasatch Stake officers to secure a new site for a proposed stake and two-ward center.

The decision gives new life to the Heber Committee attempting to preserve the old tabernacle and surrounding area as a possible park and museum.

The announcement was made after a visit to the area by Elders Marlon G. Romney, Howard W. Hunter and Thomas S. Monson.

The group spent a day in Heber City interviewing Church officials, city council members, county commissioners, members of the committee attempting to save the building, and other citizens.

Their recommendation for a new site cited these reasons: The present site is located on the main street in the center of commercial district. It creates a traffic hazard, presents a parking problem and is subjected to noise.

The three members of the Council of Twelve said their findings were supported by nearly everyone they interviewed.

They recommended that Stake President J. Harold Call and agreement was that the city would take back the property.

The \$15,000 would be applied to the cost of the new building.

In extending the time to find a guarantor it was felt that it would eliminate any basis for criticism that ample time had not been given to allow the committee to accomplish its purpose.

The property had been sold to the Church by the city with the expectation that it would be used in connection with the construction of the new building. If the Church did not use the property for the new building, the agreement was that the city would take back the property.

Vivisecting Heritage

Editor, Tribune: Congratulations for two articles recently appearing in The Tribune concerning the coming destruction of historic Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. The real tragedy of the razing of this lovely old building is that it represents the loss in this generation of the pioneer qualities of fortitude and courage, which built the structure in the first place.

Not one person in 100 in Wasatch County, nor among her scattered sons and daughters wish to have their tabernacle destroyed. Most feel as aggrieved about the event, as though the graves of their fathers were to be rifled and desecrated. Yet, with few exceptions, the majority look on in muted rage while a handful of spiritual ghouls proceed to vivisect their heritage and destroy its last mortal remains.

These worshippers at the new shrines of asphalt, brick and concrete, justify their sacrilege in a number of ways designed to placate the feelings of those who would worship God in the old way, in the old place. "Though the outside looks nice, the inside needs repairs," they say. Let us add that those responsible for the repair and maintenance of the building are the same persons who would now tear it down for their past negligence. "The seating capacity is inadequate," they claim. But not inadequate for remembering God and our fathers in the same manner as those who restore the Kimball and the Richards and the Taylor homes in Nauvoo. Would they, we ask, raze the Salt Lake Tabernacle for the same reason? They say, "Money cannot be found to maintain the old building." We wonder, has anyone thought of asking us to contribute money to such a worthy cause?

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